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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

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AlgeriaBoumediene Promises National Elections

On June 19, on the tenth anniversary of his seizure of power from Ahmed Ben Bella, President Boumediene announced that elections for a new national assembly--the first in 13 years--will be held by mid-1976. Presidential elections are also being contemplated, but he gave no date.

Boumediene added that preparations are under way for holding a congress of the National Liberation Front, Algeria's sole political party. A commission will soon begin drafting a new set of governing principles to replace the old "Charter of Algiers" promulgated at the last party congress in 1964.

After a decade in power, Boumediene has consolidated his power base and weeded out his major rivals among the original leaders of the Algerian revolution. He now presumably wants to legitimize his government by the electoral process. He will not share significant power with a reconstituted national assembly, however, and all candidates for this body, as well as for party posts, will be carefully screened.

Boumediene may also want to revive electoral politics to divert attention from growing economic problems. Export earnings have declined sharply because of lower oil prices and falling production, while an exceptionally poor harvest and Algeria's development plan requirements have escalated imports. The resulting balance-of-payments deficit may force the postponement or cancellation of a number of projects in the country's ambitious four-year development plan. (CONFIDENTIAL)



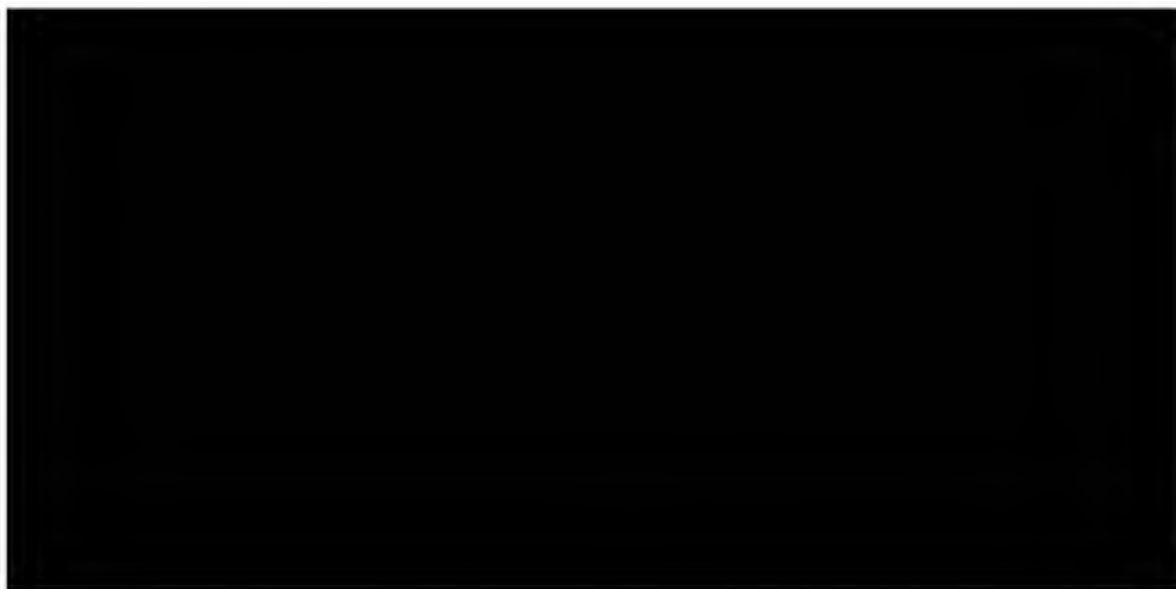
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~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~Libya-South Yemen-Oman*Tripoli Talks*

The South Yemeni-backed guerrilla war in Oman's Dhofar province may have been a major topic at high level meetings held in Tripoli last week between South Yemeni and Libyan officials. In addition, Aden and Tripoli signed an economic, technical, and cultural cooperation agreement, and Libya announced that it will support a number of development projects in South Yemen.

25X1C



Libyan Prime Minister Jallud dwelt at some length on the situation in Oman in his "Evacuation Day" speech on June 11--delivered with the South Yemeni visitors in attendance. Jallud demanded that Iranian and other foreign troops be withdrawn from Oman and threatened that, if they were not, Libya would ally itself with all revolutionaries and nationalists in the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf area as well as with the rebels in Dhofar. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY/CONTROLLED DISSEM)

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